

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A dishwasher rack basket assembly, said basket assembly comprising:

~~a water impervious basket of open mesh construction, said basket selectively positionable~~ construction comprising a plurality of walls, said walls comprising:

a back wall, a front wall including at least one projecting slide portion, and a plurality of side walls connecting said back wall to said front wall, each of said side walls including at least one continuous longitudinal slot, said at least one continuous longitudinal slot being slidably engageable with said at least one slide portion to position and transform said basket between a first size and a second size, said first size securing small items while permitting flow of liquid therethrough, said second size smaller than said first size and not securing small items while permitting flow of liquid therethrough; ~~and~~

~~a projection positioned on said basket, said projection engageable to transform said basket from said first size to said second size.~~

2. (currently amended) A basket assembly in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said basket further comprises:

a bottom wall;

~~a plurality of lateral walls pivotally attached to said bottom wall~~ walls; and

a lid pivotally mounted to at least one ~~lateral wall~~ of said walls.

3. (currently amended) A basket assembly in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said first size is configured such that said bottom wall is oriented substantially horizontally and includes horizontal disposed edges and ends and each of said lateral wall walls is oriented substantially vertically and includes substantially horizontally disposed upper and lower edges and substantially vertically disposed ends.

4. (original) A basket assembly in accordance with Claim 3 wherein said first size is substantially rectangular shaped.

5. (currently amended) A basket assembly in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said bottom wall, each of said ~~lateral~~-walls, and said lid is oriented substantially vertically.

6. (currently amended) A basket assembly in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said bottom wall and each of said ~~lateral-wall-walls~~ is integrally molded and formed from polypropylene.

7. (original) A basket assembly in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said basket assembly includes at least one connector for releasably securing said basket assembly to said dishwasher rack.

8. (currently amended) A basket assembly in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said ~~projection-at least one slide portion~~ is mounted to at least one of said ~~lateral~~-walls, said ~~projection-at least one slide portion~~ permits a user to transform said basket assembly from said first size to said second size.

9. (currently amended) A rack assembly for a dishwasher machine, said rack assembly comprising:

a dish rack for retaining items to be washed;

a basket assembly removably attached to said rack, said basket assembly comprising:

a plurality of longitudinal ~~wall-walls~~ having a first length, said longitudinal walls comprising a back wall and a front wall including at least one projecting slide portion;

a plurality of lateral walls connecting said back wall to said front wall, each of said lateral walls having a second length, each of said lateral walls and being pivotably attached to at least one of said longitudinal walls, said lateral walls comprising:

at least one continuous longitudinal slot, said at least one continuous longitudinal slot being slidably engageable with said at least one slide portion;

a bottom wall pivotably attached to at least one of said longitudinal walls;

a lid pivotably attached to at least one of said longitudinal walls; and

a knob positioned on at least one of said longitudinal walls.

10. (original) A rack assembly in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said basket assembly is collapsible between a first size and a second size, said second size smaller than said first size.

11. (original) A rack assembly in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said basket assembly first size includes said bottom wall extending perpendicular to said lateral walls and said longitudinal walls and forms a generally rectangular cross section.

12. (original) A rack assembly in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said basket assembly second size includes said bottom wall extending vertically and parallel to said lateral walls and said longitudinal walls.

13. (original) A rack assembly in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said knob is engageable to move said basket assembly between said first size and a second size, said second size collapsing said basket assembly.

14. (original) A rack assembly in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said knob is configured to secure said lid adjacent each of said lateral walls.

15. (original) A rack assembly in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said bottom wall, each of said lateral walls, each of said longitudinal walls, and said lid is made from polypropylene and is substantially of an open mesh construction to secure small items while permitting flow of liquid through said basket assembly.

16. (original) A rack assembly in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said basket assembly includes at least one integral connector for removably securing said basket assembly to said rack assembly.

17. (currently amended) A dishwasher comprising:

a cabinet including an interiorly disposed washing chamber;

a dish rack disposed in said washing chamber; and

at least one basket assembly collapsible between a first size and a second size having a generally rectangular cross section and removably attached to said rack, said at least one basket assembly comprising:

a pair of spaced apart elongate walls comprising a back wall and a front wall including at least one projecting slide portion;

a pair of spaced apart end walls movably coupled to a-said pair of spaced apart elongate walls to connect said back wall to said front wall, each of said end walls comprising:

at least one continuous longitudinal slot slidably engageable with said at least one slide portion, such that said end walls and said elongate walls are movable between a first position and a second position, said second position collapsing said basket assembly;

a bottom wall pivotably coupled to at least one of said elongate walls, such that said bottom wall is rotatable between a first position and a second position;

a lid pivotably coupled to at least one of said elongate walls; and

a knob positioned on at least one of said elongate walls.

18. (currently amended) A dishwasher in accordance with 17 wherein said basket assembly second size is smaller ~~that~~ than said basket assembly first size.

19. (original) A dishwasher in accordance with 17 wherein said basket assembly is pervious to water, such that water is permitted to pass therethrough to wash small items disposed in said basket assembly.

20. (original) A dishwasher in accordance with 17 wherein said basket assembly comprises plastic.